

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): A device comprising:
a conduit for insertion into a living body, and through which another device passes, the conduit having inner and outer coaxial layers bonded together such that the outer layer surrounds the inner layer, wherein the durometer of the inner layer is greater than the durometer of the outer layer, the circumference of the inner layer is discontinuous so as to form a discontinuity and is non-overlapping, and the circumference of the outer layer is continuous, wherein a portion of the outer layer extends between the discontinuity.
2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the conduit is an introducer sheath.
3. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the conduit is a catheter.
4. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the inner layer has means for assisting the diameter of the inner layer to expand.
5. (Original) The device of claim 4, wherein the assisting means includes a slit formed longitudinally in the inner layer.

Claims 6-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the inner layer has a durometer in a range of 60-80 on the D scale.
14. (Original) The device of claim 13, wherein the outer layer has a durometer in a range of 20-70 on the A scale.

15. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the outer layer has a durometer in a range of 20-70 on the A scale.

16. (Original) The device of claim 1, further comprising a medical device for insertion through the conduit, the medical device having a portion with an outer diameter greater than the inner diameter of the inner layer, the conduit expanding temporarily and radially as the medical device is passed through.

17. (Original) The device of claim 16, wherein the medical device is selected from the group consisting of a stent, blood clot filter, or occluder.

18. (Original) The device of claim 1, further comprising a medical device for passing through the conduit,

the medical device being foldable in a first manner for delivery through the conduit and in a second manner different from the first manner for retrieval,

the cross-section of the device as folded in the second manner being greater than the cross-section of the device as folded in the first manner, the device as folded in the first manner having an outer diameter less than the inner diameter of the conduit, the device as folded in the second manner having an outer diameter greater than the inner diameter of the conduit, the conduit not expanding as the device is delivered and expanding temporarily and radially as the medical device is retrieved.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38, wherein the conduit is an introducer sheath.

21. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38, wherein the conduit is a catheter.

Claims 22-25 (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amendment) A method comprising:

forming one of an introducer sheath or catheter through which a medical device is passed with inner and outer coaxial layers bonded together such that the outer layer surrounds the inner layer, wherein the elasticity of the outer layer is greater than the elasticity of the inner layer, the circumference of the inner layer is discontinuous so as to form a discontinuity and is non-overlapping, and the circumference of the outer layer is continuous; and

providing a portion of the outer layer to extend between the discontinuity.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the layers are bonded together through co-extrusion.
28. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the layers are bonded together through dipping.
29. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising forming the inner layer with means for allowing the diameter of the inner layer to expand.
30. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the forming includes forming an introducer sheath.
31. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the forming includes forming a catheter.
32. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

providing a medical device through a conduit in a living body, the conduit having inner and outer coaxial layers bonded together such that the outer layer surrounds the inner layer, the elasticity of the outer layer being greater than the elasticity of the inner layer, the circumference of the inner layer being discontinuous so as to form a discontinuity and being non-overlapping, and the circumference of the outer layer is continuous, a portion of the outer layer extending between the discontinuity, and the conduit temporarily expanding in the radial direction as the device passes through.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the medical device has an outer diameter greater than the inner diameter of the inner layer.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the outer diameter of the device is greater when it is delivered.
35. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the outer diameter of the device is greater when it is retrieved, but not when it is delivered.
36. (Original) The device of claim 32, wherein the medical device is selected from the group consisting of a stent, blood clot filter, or occluder.
37. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the inner layer has means for assisting the inner layer to expand radially.
38. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:
a conduit for insertion into a living body, and through which another device passes, the conduit having at least one layer with first and second types of sections varying in a circumferential direction, the circumferential direction lying in a plane perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the conduit, wherein the elasticity of one of the sections is greater than the elasticity of another one of the sections, the different elastic sections comprising resilient material and allowing the conduit to expand temporarily in the radial direction.
39. (Original) The device of claim 38, further comprising a medical device for insertion through the conduit, the medical device having a portion with an outer diameter greater than the inner diameter of the inner layer, the conduit expanding temporarily and radially as the medical device is passed through.
40. (Original) The device of claim 39, wherein the medical device is selected from the group consisting of a stent, blood clot filter, or occluder.
41. (Original) The device of claim 38, further comprising a medical device for passing through the conduit,

the medical device being foldable in a first manner for delivery through the conduit and in a second manner different from the first manner for retrieval,

the cross-section of the device as folded in the second manner being greater than the cross-section of the device as folded in the first manner, the device as folded in the first manner having an outer diameter less than the inner diameter of the conduit, the device as folded in the second manner having an outer diameter greater than the inner diameter of the conduit, the conduit not expanding as the device is delivered and expanding temporarily and radially as the medical device is retrieved.

42. (Original) The device of claim 38, wherein the conduit has a substantially uniform wall thickness.

43. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38, wherein the at least one layer has third and fourth types of sections varying in a circumferential direction, wherein the elasticity of the third type of section is substantially equal to the elasticity of the first type of section and the elasticity of the fourth type of section is substantially equal to the elasticity of the second type of section.

44. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 43, wherein the second type of section is adjacent to both the first type of section and the third type of section.

45. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

forming one of an introducer sheath or catheter through which a medical device is passed with at least one layer having first and second types of sections varying in a circumferential direction, the circumferential direction lying in a plane perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the introducer sheath or catheter, wherein the elasticity of one of the sections is greater than the elasticity of another one of the sections, the different elastic sections comprising resilient material and allowing the conduit to expand temporarily in the radial direction.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the at least one layer has third and fourth types of sections varying in a circumferential direction, wherein the elasticity of the third

type of section is substantially equal to the elasticity of the first type of section and the elasticity of the fourth type of section is substantially equal to the elasticity of the second type of section.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the second type of section is adjacent to both the first type of section and the third type of section.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the forming includes forming an introducer sheath.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the forming includes forming a catheter.

50. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

providing a medical device through a conduit in a living body, the conduit having at least one layer with first and second types of sections in a circumferential direction, the circumferential direction lying in a plane perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the conduit, wherein the elasticity of one of the sections is greater than the elasticity of another one of the sections, the different elastic sections comprising resilient material and allowing the conduit to expand temporarily in the radial direction.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the at least one layer has third and fourth types of sections varying in a circumferential direction, wherein the elasticity of the third type of section is substantially equal to the elasticity of the first type of section and the elasticity of the fourth type of section is substantially equal to the elasticity of the second type of section.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the second type of section is adjacent to both the first type of section and the third type of section.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the medical device has an outer diameter greater than the inner diameter of the conduit.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the outer diameter of the medical device is greater when it is delivered.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the outer diameter of the medical device is greater when it is retrieved, but not when it is delivered.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the medical device is selected from the group consisting of a stent, blood clot filter, or occluder.